

MACDONALD COLLEGE JOURNAL



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Farm · Home · School

Everywhere!



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1858

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Arousing the Spirit of Canada

Most of us Canadians have a tendency to regard music, painting and writing as the private hunting ground of a privileged few — mostly long dead. Not only would we be incredulous if told that we probably had some ability along one of these lines; but we're even unable to appreciate works of art when someone else has done them.

The attitude that art is unworthy of a he-man's time has been struck a couple of telling blows by two of our governors-general. The first came from Lord Tweedsmuir, who made his reputation and obtained his title through his accomplishments as a novelist. Canadians found that when Lord Tweedsmuir spoke he had something to say. But of course he was a professional writer, which made it a bit doubtful if he would rank as a he-man.

Then came Viscount Alexander. With his still fresh glory as a victorious general he could hardly be labelled a sissy. So when his paintings were accepted by exhibitions where the pictures, and not the artists, were considered, the second blow struck home. Painting must be all right for he-men, as long as they were famous. Possibly it wouldn't be too disgraceful for any man to be caught looking at paintings, or even reading substantial books or enjoying good music.

Our development might have started marking time right there if something else hadn't been involved. But it happened that quite a few Canadians had been in General Alexander's forces overseas; and while in the British Isles and on the Continent they noticed that many of the people there—men and women, young and old—refused to stop with looking at the work that others had done.

They found that a surprising number of sergeants and privates, as well as colonels and generals, painted or played or wrote for a pastime—many of them very proficiently. And they saw no reason why, if people in wartime Europe could get so much satisfaction in recording their thoughts and feelings in sound, colour and the written word, people in peacetime Canada couldn't find similar pleasure in creative self-expression.

Some of these boys, and girls too, came back to Canada filled with a vision of this country's possibilities

—possibilities for writing, painting, composing, playing, films, concerts, plays, musicales, handicrafts; possibilities for awakening dormant interests and developing latent talents.

There will probably be a long, hard struggle before these artistic missionaries succeed in awakening the full spirit of Canada. But it will be a wonderful day if they do, and Canadians really start to express themselves, and to appreciate the works of the world's great artists. Some of these artists are Canadians—we have men and women, today in this country, whose work is widely acclaimed in the rest of the world, but scarcely recognized at home.

Nowhere is creative talent or artistic appreciation smothered under a thicker blanket than in rural Canada. Few successful attempts have been made to pierce this blanket; but that of the Manitoba Pool Elevators seems like one of the most hopeful. The Manitoba pool, with the co-operation of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, is sponsoring an art and handicraft exhibition for rural people; and the results so far have been most encouraging.

If the people of rural Manitoba can appreciate good pictures, and paint passable ones of their own, what about the rural people in other provinces? There is no reason to believe that Manitoba has a monopoly on creative ability; but it will be difficult to prove it hasn't unless the other provinces undertake similar projects.

There is real challenge for some organization to help rural Canada develop its talents and its appreciation of artistic values—not only in painting and handicrafts, but in all the other arts as well.

Our Cover Picture

When enemy occupation cut off supplies of vegetable seed from Denmark during the war, Canada embarked upon an ambitious programme of seed growing to replace the lost stocks. At the request of the Dominion Government, the Horticulture Department at Macdonald College grew cauliflower seed—this was the only place it was grown in Eastern Canada. The plants featured on our cover this month are a strain of Super Snowball grown from some of this seed.

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Keeping Up With Haying

by J. R. Cowan

NO MATTER how hard we try to hay at the correct stage, bad weather often stymies us. And the more hay we have to put up, the greater our problem becomes. It's obviously impossible to cut all our hay on the one day, or even in two or three days if it's a really big crop; and unless it's cut just as it's coming into the blossom stage many of its valuable nutrients are lost.

The only way out of this quandary seems to be finding satisfactory means of spreading out the period when our hay will be at the best stage for cutting, and then getting it harvested as quickly as possible.

The difficulty of getting poor quality hay because we aren't able to harvest all of it at the proper stage may be partly overcome by putting up part of it early, as ensilage. The rest of the land can be seeded down to different mixtures, some of them early-maturing and some later-maturing, so that all our hay fields will not reach cutting stage at the same time. Then handling can be speeded up by the use of machinery such as tedders, side delivery rakes, hay loaders, buck rakes, automatic field balers and two-way forage crop harvesters.

Let's consider just what we mean by haying. We have already said that hay must be cut early to be most nutritious. Experiments have shown that the highest production of best quality hay is obtained when the grasses and clovers are in the early stages of blooming. If we cut a green plant at this stage it will have perhaps sixty or seventy per cent moisture. Material with this much moisture would spoil immediately if piled in large quantities in a hay mow. It has to be dried down to around twenty to twenty-five per cent moisture before it will keep readily in storage, and in order to accomplish this, it must be allowed to dry to this point in the field. It's also worthwhile to retain the green colour which is lost when hay is exposed too long to the sun.

To get hay quickly to the stage where it is ready to store it requires frequent moving or some way of getting the air to move readily through it. When handled by hand it is usually raked and put up in bunches, and heavy crops sometimes require turning before satisfactory drying is obtained. The secret of good hay is cutting and handling in such a fashion that we will get the maximum drying in the shortest period of time. If this job is done by hand, it requires a lot of labour.

How can we best use some of the haying methods already suggested to do this job more quickly and easily? I have already suggested making silage of part of the hay crop. If a silo and silo filling equipment are available, it is not too difficult to put up grass silage. But it is advisable to use a preservative and caution must be taken to have the forage at about 65 to 70 per cent moisture for



Field day crowds showed keen interest in up-to-date haying equipment.

best result. The most commonly used preservative is molasses, applied at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds per ton of hay. There are other preservatives, but molasses is about the cheapest and is quite satisfactory.

In harvesting the forage for ensilage, the crop should be cut when it's just coming into the bud stage. Ordinary haying equipment can be used, or the forage crop harvester. We will deal with the forage crop harvester in more detail later.

If you are using ordinary haying equipment for putting up grass silage, care must be taken not to overload it. This equipment cannot handle as much green grass as hay, because the grass may be three times the weight of good hay due to much higher moisture content. But it's worth remembering that areas harvested for silage will produce more aftermath and can be used later for a second crop of hay or supplementary pasture.

Easier to Handle the Rest

Once part of the hay crop has been harvested as silage, the remainder can be handled more easily in the proper condition for top grade feed. The chief competing factor is the weather, and secondly time. Mechanization will help to overcome these two factors to a very marked degree. The extent we can mechanize depends primarily on the acreage involved. However, quality must be also considered; it may be advisable to mechanize sufficiently to preserve quality, even if the acreage would not otherwise warrant it on the basis of volume to be handled.

Our three operations in haying are cutting, drying and storing. Where can machinery best fit into this picture? It is an accepted fact that cutting is mechanized, with a choice between horse power and tractor power. This, of course, will depend on the acreage. Raking, a part of the drying operation, has been mechanized for some

time. But other than cutting and raking, haying has been largely a hand labour job.

Now let's discuss other pieces of equipment that have been introduced to cut down on the amount of hand labour. The tedder is a machine which is designed for loosening or kicking up the hay to permit more rapid drying, where it is necessary to handle it to assist drying. The side delivery rake rolls up the hay in a very satisfactory manner for use of a hay loader. While reducing the amount of surface exposed to the sun, it permits the air to get through quite readily.

New Loaders Cut Losses

The hay loader does away with the pitching of hay in loading. It is sometimes criticized as being hard on alfalfa hay because it shakes off too many leaves. Many of the new loaders have overcome this fault by using a tight bottom, and thus substantially reducing the loss of leaves. Many other ingenious farmers have overcome the labour involved in hauling hay by the use of the buck rake. It has proven to be a great labour saving device, providing the haul is not too long.

The automatic hay baler is becoming quite popular. To warrant the expense of this machine the volume to be harvested should be fairly large. This ingenious device for packaging hay will permit one man on the average to bale about 30 tons a day. A baler, like a loader, only performs a part of the haying operation and does not eliminate weather hazards, but it does permit the storage of greater quantities in less time. When a baler is used it introduces problems of loading, unloading and storing. Because of the high cost of balers they should at least handle 500 tons per year, to keep down the cost per ton.

The two-way forage crop harvester will, in one operation, chop dry hay or grass for silage, and load it into wagons. The chopped material can later be placed in a stack silo or mow by means of a blower. In areas where hay can be stored as silage in dry hay, this type of equipment offers possibilities in coping both with weather and mechanization problems. With this machine the crop can be harvested and stored in a single operation. A three to five man crew can harvest and store three to four tons of dry hay per hour or six to ten tons of grass silage per hour.

Although the forage crop harvester has successfully mechanized grass silage operations, the chopping of hay has presented a problem. Hay cut in two-inch lengths must be stored at lower moisture content than longer hay. Also hay cut short causes irritation to the mouths of the stock eating it. However, if machines are designed to cut hay at longer lengths, these problems should be overcome.

In seeding down new hay meadows, why not use mixtures or varieties which will lengthen out the haying season? Consider the feasibility of putting up some grass silage. Get more information on haying equipment and find out where and what kinds can be used most effectively. Why not have your Farm Forum discuss the feasibility of making some of these more expensive pieces of haying equipment a community endeavour?

TOUGH AS CROCODILE HIDE



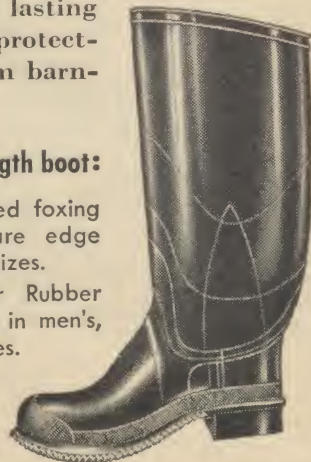
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Solving the Pig Puzzle

by L. H. Hamilton

FOR a number of years people interested in the future of our swine industry have been worried about the relatively low grading of market pigs in Canada. In 1947 the percentage of Grade A hogs was 31.6 and B1 hogs 40.3. When we consider the great variety of conditions under which hogs are raised all across Canada, this record does not appear to be too bad; in fact, some people claim it is very good, even if it can be improved upon.

On further analysis, however, we find that there is a considerable variation in the percentage of Grade A hogs from one district to another, and this shows the opportunity for improvement. For instance, Alberta had 21.8 percent grade A hogs in 1947, while Prince Edward Island had 51.1 percent. These are the two extremes and there is too much difference to be accidental.

The explanation of this difference is difficult to arrive at. From the report of our graders we find that, of the carcasses which failed to qualify for the top grades, 50% were too fat, 23% were off type, and 17% were either too heavy or too light; the remaining 10% failed for minor reasons. On the surface this appears to explain our problem. It indicates that many farmers feed too much or they use the wrong feed mixture to produce grade A hogs. In addition, they probably breed pigs which are not so close to the ideal type and they do not

Island. The trucker does not pass their door every week to pick up one or two pigs which have reached the correct weight.

It was my good fortune during the summer months to inspect herds from Alberta and Prince Edward Island. During this trip I was interested in observing the type of pig found in the various districts as well as the management and feeding practice followed.

Generally speaking I found no essential difference in the feeding of pigs across Canada. This statement is based on the following observations. All farmers, irrespective of location, try to get their pigs to market at as early an age and as cheaply as possible. Some prefer hand feeding while others self feed market pigs. Some prefer dry feeding, others slop feeding. Some farmers provide quite satisfactory, and in a few cases elaborate or expensive accommodation, while others get along with inexpensive, and in some cases, inadequate accommodation. Some use grass or pasture while others prefer confined pen feeding.

Generally speaking, most farmers have quite sound ideas about the meal mixture. It would be interesting to know the percentage who had skim milk for feeding; but here again, only part of the farmers in both the east and the west had skim milk. From my observations it was impossible to say whether the western farmer or the eastern farmer was the better feeder or followed the better practices. There was good and not so good in each area; but from a general survey the difference in the percentage of grade A hogs could not be explained by the feeds used or the feeding practice followed.

The greatest difference I observed was in the pigs themselves. A champion hog in Western Canada would not be accepted as a breeding prospect in Prince Edward Island. This does not apply to western Canada only. The same type of pig is quite common in Ontario and Quebec. This somewhat shorter, thicker and supposedly better-doing type which has achieved a great deal of popularity, has not been accepted in the Maritime Provinces. The reason for this is in some measure due to the location of the Island farmers, which leaves them less subject to changes which may take place in other parts



The visitors inspecting this P.E.I. brood sow came from N.B., Quebec and Iowa, lured by the Island's reputation for breeding good pigs.

pay so much attention to marketing at the correct weight. This has been the generally accepted explanation, and on the surface it is quite satisfying.

Farmers in Alberta, because of their organization and the size of their farms, do not have the time to adhere to detail in the same way they do in Prince Edward

Why has Prince Edward Island taken the undisputed leadership of Canada in pig breeding? Why are the Island's showings in both commercial grades and Advanced Registry tests so far ahead of the other Provinces? Its system of breeding is the answer, says Professor Hamilton, who goes on to suggest how the others might take up the slack.

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of Canada and the fact that they do not believe this shorter type of pig has measured up to our market requirements. The correctness of their judgment is not only indicated by the percentage of market pigs classified grade A, but it is also indicated by the number of sows and boars qualifying for Advanced Registry.

The June 1948 issue of Canadian Swine carries a list of sows and boars qualifying for Advanced Registry during the period December 1947 to the end of May 1948. It is interesting to note that Alberta had 14 sows qualified and Prince Edward Island had 33. The number in Ontario was 21, Quebec 1, New Brunswick 5, Manitoba 8, and Saskatchewan 12. In the case of boars only 9 were listed. They were divided as follows: Prince Edward Island 4, Ontario 2, New Brunswick 1, Alberta 1, and Saskatchewan 1. Considering the size and pig population, it is obvious that the Island hog people are away out front in meeting our standards for Advanced Registration. Further, these standards have been given consideration at regular intervals and are, generally speaking, very satisfactory. If it can be safely assumed that this marked difference is not due to the feeding and management practice, it is logical to suggest that the type of pig and not the feeding practice is the main reason.

How important is type? This is a very difficult question to answer with exactness. W. P. Watson, Livestock Commissioner for Ontario, after a trip to Denmark, reported that: "Regardless of all the strides that have been made in marketing, the Danes have not discovered a way of making a good Wiltshire side out of a poor type hog." For 25 years they have been working conscientiously towards perfection in their breeding stock. It is not necessary to emphasize here the success of their efforts. Ninety percent of the bacon Denmark shipped to Great Britain in the years immediately preceding the war was top grade. This was no small achievement, and it did not just happen. It was the result of careful planning and selection in the breeding of animals and continuous examination of standards.

Type Not Yet Fixed

From a Canadian viewpoint there is no doubt about the bacon type being the most satisfactory for our trade. There is, further, no doubt about the importance of the hog in providing a means of marketing our grain crops. Further, Canadians like our hog products. Despite this, and despite the very good leadership which has been given by the Departments of Agriculture and our Colleges, we have not yet arrived at the point where we are controlling the type of pigs we are producing. It is true, we have gone a great distance in this direction, but at fairly regular intervals new ideas gain precedence and become widely accepted to the detriment of the industry as a whole. Personally I like this independence of action, but there are times when it can become disturbing. It seems timely to emphasize the importance of type since this is the season when type is established by our various shows and exhibitions.

W. H. Clay, Dominion Government Fieldman, who has given the necessary leadership in building the Island hog industry, believes type to be a primary consideration. He believes that if breeding pigs are of the right type, good feeding cannot spoil them. They have no trouble with over fat market pigs in Prince Edward Island, in spite of full feeding.

Ways of Controlling Type

There are at least three ways by which the type of pig can be controlled: (a) More careful selection of judges for our shows. We sometimes fail to realize how closely the work of a judge is followed, particularly at our larger fairs. Farmers and breeders very often in selecting their show stock do so after they have carefully considered the previous work of the judge. If a certain judge has emphasized length at previous fairs, the showman selects his longest pigs when he learns this man will judge them. If the judge has overlooked extra length for other qualities, this is also considered. In other words, breeders select their show animals to please the judge. There could be no criticism of this if all judges were agreed on the standard which should be followed. This is not always so, and for this reason the suggestion of training judges, or getting them together annually to discuss type, would seem to have some merit. Recently the nomination of judges has been made by the Swine Breeders' Association. This seems like a logical set-up but it has not worked satisfactorily in some instances.

(b) Additional classes for Advanced Registry stock should be added to the prize list of our shows and exhibitions. This point has been discussed at various times but has not been acceptable to the majority so far. In this connection it is interesting to note that in Denmark the mere fact that an animal has been given a pedigree does not make it eligible for entry in the herd book. Only those individuals that make outstanding records are accorded that privilege, following selection by the Herd Book Committee.

Perhaps it is not necessary to go that far in Canada at present, but it does not seem reasonable to deny special classes to animals of proved ability. It is true that they can compete in the regular classes and I do not believe this should be denied them, but in addition, it would seem worth while to recognize the effort made in proving breeding ability and to encourage others to do so. Special classes for animals of proven ability can do much in establishing and maintaining type.

(c) Wider publicity could be given to stock qualified in "Advanced Registration". Special classes at our Fairs will help in attaining this publicity, but even this may need to be supplemented. The average man who, after all, produces the very great majority of our market pigs, has little opportunity to know what breeders are doing. He should constantly be reminded of the importance and value of type and breeding and where this type and breeding can be found.

Why Youth Leaves the Farm

In an endeavor to find out why young people leave farms, Dr. R. D. Sinclair, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta, circulated a questionnaire among students at the university aimed at finding out why they would not remain on the farm, or why they would decide not to take up farming as a profession. Altogether 206 students registered their views, and answered 11 questions.

Heading the list of reasons why these students refused to consider farming was the problem of financing, and second in importance was lack of stability of farm prices. Third was lack of modern conveniences on the average farm, and fourth was lack of educational opportunities. When these reasons are studied, they would perhaps average out as fairly good reasons why many young people do not stay on farms, although they may not quite tie up with the usual ones which are advanced as the chief factors in keeping young people off the farms.

The study made by Dr. Sinclair should be a revealing one in many ways. While the main reasons given have been recognised as contributing factors, they do not appear to have been classified as leading ones. While it cannot be expected that all farm-born boys and girls should remain on the farms, it is important that a large number of new farmers should be recruited from their ranks in each generation.

It is generally accepted that in this way a sound farming tradition can be built up, to the lasting benefit of the farm economy itself. A third or fourth generation farmer is much more likely to have developed an innate conception of the principles of good animal and field husbandry than one who would plunge into the tricky business of agriculture without some sort of tradition behind him.

For the good of agriculture, then, it may be inferred from Dr. Sinclair's findings that there are several things that must be attended to before a satisfactory number of young people return to the farms. Means must be found to overcome the difficulties of finance; further methods of stabilisation must be found; more amenities that young people have enjoyed in the city must be transplanted to the country home, and definitely, our educational system needs overhauling to provide country children with the educational facilities that are on a par with the more favored city children.

It must be recognised that without those important matters of progress, there is little likelihood of the young people remaining on the farm, which will be to the detriment of the farm economy and the country as a whole.

—*Western Farm Leader.*

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A prime contender for leadership in Canada's poultry industry, is the Ells plant at Port Williams, N.S. Manning Ells has pioneered in the use of modern large-scale equipment, and has tackled problems aggressively, to build up the biggest poultry business east of Ontario.

WHEN Manning Ells' hatchery burned down in December 1946, the ashes weren't cold before he had the plan drawn up and the material ordered for a bigger and better one. Before the end of January it was in operation. And in the meantime no hatches were missed, as Mr. Ells hired space in other hatcheries that didn't ordinarily run at that season.

The new breeder hatchery has been designed to cut down labour and speed up work. Its three hatching units take 65,000 eggs each, and turn them automatically twice a day, while keeping an accurate record of temperature and humidity. They operate from January to June, with the eggs moved from the incubators to the hatching units on the eighteenth day, and one hatch a day coming off throughout the season. Just in case the power goes off the plant is equipped with its own 25,000 watt generator, which has automatically cut in to save close to 100,000 chicks several times in two seasons' operation.

From the hatching units the chicks go to the packing room, where they are put in boxes for shipment to buyers, or to the Ells brooder houses.

The hatchery is equipped with a wash shed where trays and other equipment can be thoroughly scoured. Part of the apparatus for this purpose is a steam washer which converts water and disinfectant in a cleansing solution that kills the germs as it removes the dirt. This unit can also be taken around the houses to wash dropping boards and other equipment.

The most noticeable feature of the Ells plant at Port Williams, N.S., is a four-story laying house that accom-

modates 6,450 hens, in 24 pens. The day we visited the plant on a hot day in late July these 6,450 hens had delivered 4,152 eggs, which speaks well for their accommodations as well as their management. This house features continuous flowing water, community nests, feed carriers and manure pits. Shavings and straw are built up into deep litter.

But this huge house handles only a small proportion of the 14,000 hens, mostly Light Sussex, that are kept on the plant. The hens that Ells wants to keep stock from are mated pure, but the others are mated with Red male, producing self-sexing chicks—dark pullets and light cockerels. Out of a total hatch of 700,000 chicks a year, from 30 to 40 thousand are grown on the plant.

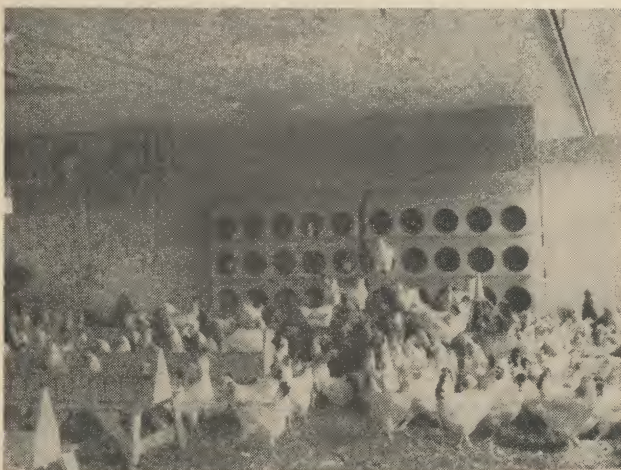
Ells has one unit of 21 brooder houses, with two fires to each house, all supplied with oil from a central tank. His colony houses are scattered over a good many acres, all under good range.

In addition to his breeding and hatching, Ells operates an egg-grading station that last year handled 1,440,000 dozen eggs worth \$750,000—about a third of the total graded in Nova Scotia. These eggs are collected from 345 farmers by his five trucks on regular routes. Besides selling widely over the Maritimes, these eggs are supplied to all the hotels in Bermuda, says Mr. Ells.

Ells is a great grandson of one of the early settlers that moved into this section of Nova Scotia after the Acadians were evacuated. His family had always relied on orchards, and Manning Ells himself has had up to 18,000 trees. But when his son Donald came back from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1925 they decided to go into poultry. And while their poultry business has grown, their orchard holdings have dwindled to a mere 8,000 trees.

To a man of action like Ells, it would be unbearable to see the manure from so many birds go to waste. So he has it hauled out to the orchards, and disked into the soil. He says he doesn't know the rate of application, but it's certainly heavy. The trees on this land are showing very great terminal growth, and other orchardists are afraid that the fruit will be soft, and lack keeping quality. Ells didn't appear impressed by their doubts. He did remark that it was strange that so many apples that showed no culls on the trees were graded down later. However, he blamed stringent grading.

The results of this heavy application of poultry manure on orchards will be closely watched by Ell's neighbours. They've already learned a lot from him. In the first place he started the movement that has replaced scrub stock



A pen of Light Sussex hens mated to Red males.

N.B. Veterinary Services Forge Ahead



A Perth farmer (left) consults Dr. Howard Mutrie, Victoria county veterinarian, about making a test on some cattle he has bought.

New Brunswick started something new in Canada three years ago when it set up a veterinary service plan and hired veterinarians as civil servants. True, farmers still had to pay for their services, but the fees were fixed at a level considerably below what farmers had previously paid. As a result, farmers started calling the vet instead of letting their animals waste away or die; and on a recent trip to New Brunswick the only criticism heard of the service was that there still weren't enough county vets.

Nine districts had been set up by this summer, with a tenth ready to open shortly. Most of the vets seem to have been kept very busy, particularly in the spring, when animals show the results of a long winter inside, often on poor feed. Leading among the causes of trouble were mastitis, contagious abortion, milk fever, acetone-mia and nutritional disorders such as white scours in calves. Some of the county vets claim that over 50 percent of their cases can be traced to poor feeding.

Besides treating the animals, the county vets take blood samples for Bang tests, and inoculate calves for protection against the disease. They are helped in this work during the summer by six veterinary students, who are prospects for future county vets.

Dr. J. T. Akins, Director of Veterinary Services, is planning to set up an educational program as the next step in his scheme for maintaining N.B. livestock in better health. Literature will be abstracted and pertinent items sent in bulletins to the county vets. The program will also be carried to farmers through agricultural representatives and agricultural societies, making as much use as possible of modern educational aids such as motion pictures.

The N.B. Veterinary Service laboratory at Fredericton plays an important role in the livestock health program. It makes tests for the diagnosis of infectious diseases such as haemorrhagic septicemia, checks the mould count

in butter, analyzes samples of water for the detection of bacterial content, and keeps a check on pullorum testing. Dr. D. B. Butterwick is the veterinary pathologist in charge of the lab, and he has two laboratory technicians working with him.

The veterinary service set-up provides a good chance for consultations among its staff. Periodically all the district vets come in to Fredericton to discuss their problems. Sometimes one of them can suggest an answer to the problem another faces; and at other times Dr. Akins or Dr. Butterwick can provide a solution. These discussions keep all the men in touch with all the work all the time, and also keep them informed of recent advances in veterinary work.

This team work is used right on the job, too. When a county vet is faced with a serious problem in his district he notifies headquarters, and a team may go out to get to the root of the matter.

The veterinary service has performed at least one extra service, as well as watching over the health of livestock. It buys drugs in bulk, and vets have dispensed them at prices considerably lower than those prevailing at local drug stores. As a result, many of the drug stores have lowered their prices on these particular drugs, in order to meet the competition.

Floor Prices Set for N.S. Apples

The Agricultural Prices Support Board has established floor prices of \$3.90 per barrel for Nova Scotia apples sold fresh and \$2.50 per barrel for those sold for processing as dried apples or apple juice.

Under the provisions of the scheme, the Nova Scotia Apple Marketing Board has been appointed as the sole marketing agency of the Agricultural Prices Support Board. This arrangement gives the marketing board the full responsibility of handling the entire 1948 crop. It is expected that the Board will handle about 700,000 barrels of the estimated 1,000,000-barrel crop—300,000 barrels as fresh fruit and 400,000 barrels partially as fresh and partially as processed fruit.

Parachutists Fight Fires

By the end of July, forest fires consumed almost one million acres of Canadian woodlands in 1948. Of this total, a quarter million acres were merchantable timber. Loss of forest wealth to Canada stands at \$44 million.

The first report this year of the Province of Saskatchewan's smoke jumpers indicates that they are being used most effectively to suppress fires in remote areas of the Province. No other Canadian province is employing these parachutists.

Of the 2,224 fires started so far this year, Ontario leads with 850, and Quebec follows with 525. More than 5,000 fires were recorded during 1947. —Woodland World.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

How Gold Medals Are Won



The winner of the Agricultural Merit gold medal for 1948, Mr. Pierre Couture, farms a 112-acre property at St. Augustin, which is on the Montreal-Quebec highway not far from Quebec. As promised in our last issue, we bring our readers a short description of his farming operations.

The Couture family has farmed this property ever since 1817, and, it may be added, with considerable success. The gold medallist's great grandfather, François Couture, cleared most of the farm, and his grandfather, Alexandre Couture, entered it in the first Agricultural Merit competition back in 1890, winning a silver medal. Pierre, who has owned the farm for the past 10 years, also won a silver medal in 1943, the last time the competition was held in that district, with a score of 906½ points. This year the judges awarded his farm the very creditable score of 928.

Hog raising is a specialty at which Mr. Couture excels; income also comes in from the sale of cream from his 8 milking grade cows, and from sales of honey, vegetables, apples, hay and eggs. The farm land is fertile and includes some 35 acres of heavy soil, 20 acres of a good loam and another 20 acres of sandy loam. There are 69 acres under cultivation and a 6-acre woodlot. The remainder of the property carries the village convent and several houses.

The fields are well drained, with a judicious use of tile which is installed on all the part of the farm that lies south of the highway, and it would be hard to find any farm with better fences, stronger gates or a better farm road which, with its hard surface, permits of driving a car along smoothly at any speed.

Intensive farming permits the maximum of harvest from the relatively small acreage. Mr. Couture this year had 3 acres of vegetable crops, apples and table turnips, 15 acres of mixed oats and barley, and about 35 acres in hay. Some 10 acres are in the permanent pasture and the rest of the farm is taken up by the farm garden, the hog yards, the orchard and the farm buildings. Yields of grain are about 50 bushels, and he gets about 2 tons of hay to the acre. There is a very complete outfit of machinery, and the grain is threshed and the hay baled

in the field. About half the hay crop is fed on the farm and the rest is sold in Quebec.

Both Pierre and his father are particularly interested in hog raising, and they have managed to cut their costs to the minimum. They sell about 100 hogs a year to the Quebec branch of the Co-operative Federee, and there were about 60 good Yorkshire types on the farm when the judges visited it this summer. The hogs are fed a ration of skim milk, farm grain and commercial feed, supplemented with waste bread, cake and pies obtained very cheaply from the Quebec bakery to which the hay is sold. The hog raising branch is the most profitable of all the operations of the farm which brings in a gross revenue of between 8 and 10 thousand dollars annually.

Mr. Couture is also an accomplished beekeeper and his dozen or so hives produce several hundred pounds of honey. The 600-tree orchard takes up 4 acres of land and is in fair condition. Most of the trees are early varieties.

The mechanization of the farm was noted particularly in the judges' report. The equipment includes a good tractor, combine, a hay baler, a side delivery rake, good farm wagons, etc. All this represents a considerable capital investment, more perhaps than the size of the farm justifies, but Mr. Couture defends it by pointing out how difficult it is to obtain labour. Besides, he often rents his machinery out to the neighbours, going along himself to operate it.

In addition to the hay, the baler is also used to press



Good cattle get good feed in a good stable.

straw, with the result that there is very little loose feed lying around the barn. Mr. Couture is greatly impressed with the results he gets with his baler and very emphatically would not go back to the old system.

Mr. Couture's family works right along with him. His father, now 75 years of age, is still very active and the two of them with one hired man do all the heavy work of the farm. Mrs. Couture and two sisters-in-law who live with them look after the large and well-equipped

farm house, the farm garden and the lawns and flower beds, items which, through their excellent condition, added considerably to the total score for the farm. There are four children: three girls, aged 14, 10 and 5 respectively, and a young fellow 2½ years old.

This is one of the best types of the long-established French-speaking farm family. Industrious, capable citizens, it is a pleasure to extend to them our hearty congratulations on their achievements.



Jean Pierre, two and a half, likes to help his father in the orchard.



Mr. Couture's model barn is right on the Quebec-Montreal highway.

Buyers Get Bargains in Breeding Stock

This was not a banner year for the sale of breeding stock held during the Sherbrooke Winter Sale. The first animal up for sale had been bought by the Quebec Beef Cattle Association for resale, the proceeds to go for junior club work. But it was a white calf born in April of this year—and not a particularly good heifer at that. As a result Auctioneer Ray Demers had a hard time getting the bids started, and then the calf brought only \$130.

But the poor start was not solely responsible for the slow tempo of the sale. Several animals simply were not good enough, and they lowered the general standard. However, some of the buyers benefitted from this; they got good animals at a fraction of the price they would have had to pay for them elsewhere.

When the figures were totted up they showed that 18 Shorthorn females had averaged \$249 and six bulls \$266. The lone Hereford bull went at \$160 and the only Hereford cow was bid in. The two Angus entries had been withdrawn from the sale.

The top price of the sale was \$575, paid by Norfolk Farms for a white Shorthorn heifer entered by L. M. Hart, St. Genevieve. The top bid for a bull was \$500, contributed by C. E. Sharman, Canterbury, and bought for Jas. McNair, Tate, Ont. However, it was later stated that the sale hadn't gone through.

The biggest buyers were T. Hargrave of Massawippi, who took home four females, and Louis Gingras of St. Anastasie, who bought three. Ross Edwards of Hillhurst accounted for a couple and several other farmers got one each.

After the calf club heifer was sold the auctioneer asked for donations to the club project—Five people contributed \$50 each, two put in \$25 each and one bid \$10, for a total of \$310, which would give quite a boost to calf club work.



Perennially prominent at the Sherbrooke Show are John McKellar, Jack Speers, Howard Murray, Clinton Devlin and Wesley Nichol.

Sherbrooke Draws High Average Prices

A life-infusing junior competition, good prices all down the line, and a fine display of bacon hog carcasses were milestones of progress at the fat stock show held in connection with the 1948 Sherbrooke Winter Fair.

This year the sale had no strikes on it—packinghouse or any other variety; and the exhibitors received a 60% premium over market price for steers, 83% for lambs and 40% for hogs. Although the top prices for steers and lambs were not as high as in recent years, a new record high was set for hogs—both pen of three and pen of five—and prices held up well right to the end of the sale.

With entries down sharply from last year's big show, 119 steers averaged about 37 cents a pound, and only one sold below 30½, setting a low of 28; but that was still a big jump ahead of last year's 17½ cent low. The 115 lambs averaged 36½ cents, and the low was 31, compared with 16¾ in 1947. And the 72 market hogs brought a thumping good average of 44 cents, with 36 the bottom price . . . in strong contrast to last year, when the bulk of the hogs sold very little above the market.

The sale was opened by Pierre Labrecque, Chief of Provincial Livestock Services, representing the Quebec Department of Agriculture. Mr. Labrecque remarked on the importance of the Sherbrooke show to Quebec agriculture, and expressed his best wishes for its continued success. Ovila Bedard, Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, then conveyed the good wishes of his minister, the Hon. J. S. Bourque, who was unable to be present.

Among the visitors from outside the province were Hon. J. B. McNair, premier of New Brunswick, and J. K. King, deputy minister of agriculture for that province. Jim Russell, the prominent Ontario Shorthorn breeder, was back to renew acquaintances and eye the cattle.

One of the highlights of the steer show flashed on when young John Nichol of Lennoxville, after winning the junior club class for steers, took his beast on to win the Hereford grand championship. It was also encourag-

ing to rank and file exhibitors when Tom Kirby of Cookshire, who had shown steers for nine years without getting into top company, walked off with the Hereford reserve ribbon.

The Angus and Shorthorn championships went in pairs, Howard Murray of Magog taking both black titles while Norfolk Farms, Hudson Heights, cleaned up in Shorthorn championships. When the breed tops were all lined up a Norfolk Farms steer went to the head of the row, and Howard Murray had to be contented with reserve place.

When the grand champion steer came out before Auctioneer Ray Demers to start the sale he brought \$1.80 a pound, which was down from last year's \$2.00 and considerably below the resounding \$2.50 paid in 1945 and 1946. The buyer was Steinberg's Wholesale Groceries, Montreal. The reserve champion steer sold to the Morantz Beef Co., Montreal at \$1.00 a pound, against \$1.40 in 1947; and John Nichol's champion Hereford brought 89 cents from the T. Eaton Co. Ltd., Montreal.



Reserve Grand Champion lamb for Howard Murray and the Grand Champion lamb for Norfolk Farms.



The Grand Champion steer of the show and the Reserve Champion Shorthorn for Norfolk Farms, Hudson Heights, are shown by George McTavish, farm manager.

In the lamb show the numbers were down but the quality was quite good. Norfolk Farms topped the show for the second year in a row, winning the grand championship with the only lamb they brought down—a Southdown wether which later brought \$3.25 a pound from Douglas Hart, Montreal. Another Southdown brought Howard Murray the reserve ribbon and went on to sell at \$1.10 a pound to Canada Packers, Montreal. W. Frizzle's first prize lamb in breeds other than Southdown went to Steinberg's at 80 cents.

Coming to market hogs, Antonio Sevigny of Princeville took first and third prizes for pen of three as well as first for pen of five. Walter Brown of Lennoxville took second for both size pens, and N. H. Beach of Lennoxville had third prize pen of five. Sevigny's pen of three sold to Modern Packers, Montreal at \$1.25, and his pen of five to Canada Packers at 75 cents, setting a new record in each category.

The junior classes again featured graded grouping, instead of individual placing for each entry. The club rules require that each member feed both a steer and a heifer, the steer to be sold through the ring and the heifer taken home for breeding. There is only one junior steer class, while the heifers are divided into junior and yearling classes.

Successful in getting into group A with calf club steers were John Nichol, Ronald Chapman, Stuart Lyon, Origene Cournoyer and Bennie Jacklin. John Nichol won the club steer championship with his animal that later became Hereford champion, and Ronald Chapman took reserve for club steers.

In junior heifers, those successful in reaching the top group were Ronald Chapman, Bennie Jacklin, Dorothy Loveland, Raphael Sharman, Ann Sharman and Stanley MacDonald. Ronald Chapman and Stanley MacDonald were along in the top bracket for yearling heifers, and also won the grand and reserve championships for heifers. Ronald Chapman added to his laurels when he won the Kiwanis cup as best junior showman.

Entries in most of the breeding classes were scanty. Dr. G. R. McCall of Lachute took both male and female grand championships for Angus, with Howard Murray in reserve. In Herefords, C. D. French of Cookshire won both grand awards, as well as reserve for females, while Green Hills Farm, Lennoxville, had reserve grand champion male. Stanley MacDonald of Sherbrooke took the reserve junior championship for females.

Shorthorn breeding classes were considerably heavier. C. E. Sharman, Canterbury, had the top bull, and Norfolks Farms had reserve champion bull and grand champion female. Mrs. T. C. Stuart, Arundel, won the reserve for females.

In Yorkshire breeding classes. Aime' Demers of Rock Forest had a slight edge over Antonio Sevigny, Princeville and O. A. Fowler, Kingsbury. Fowler had the only Tamworth entries, and the Estate of J. A. Woodward, Lennoxville, showed the only Berkshires.

When it came to Shropshire sheep, Slack Bros., Waterville and the Woodward estate were the big winners, and

in Cheviots and Southdowns Slack Bros. and Howard Murray fought it out. John A. Rose, Waterville and F. G. Bennett & Son, Bury, split the Oxford prizes; and Hollis V. Burns, Cookshire and J. A. McBurney, Sawyer-ville, had the Hampshires. Leicesters were represented by L. P. McCarthy, St. Augustin, Portneuf, J. A. McBurney and J. H. Couture, St. Augustin.

An innovation at Sherbrooke this year was the display of 25 Wiltshire sides from Quebec hogs. This display was arranged co-operatively by the dominion and provincial departments of agriculture and several of the packers, and was under the supervision of Dr. Adrien Morin of the packers' council. Grouped according to quality the sides provided a very good object lesson on what is required in bacon hogs. Of the 25 sides, J. G. Lefebvre of the Dominion Department of Agriculture said that all would grade A and that the top 10 had no major faults.

The Sherbrooke show was again kept running by a few hard workers who took most of the responsibility and did most of the work. But it was obvious to visitors experienced in events of this kind that the organization was too loose—that the work and the responsibility should be spread around a little more, so that nobody would have to undertake more than he could handle.

There was considerable criticism of the lack of adequate advance publicity, and of the scanty press accommodations which have remained unaltered for several years, although several more papers are now represented at the show.

Newspaper writers and editors believed that Sherbrooke should follow the lead of similar shows in other places, by appointing a local official to handle all publicity and to act as liaison officer between the numerous activities and the press. At present some of the reports are not even turned in to the central office, so that reporters must scour the grounds to find a certain man before they can include that part of the show in their stories.

If a capable official were given this liaison job he could make it possible for newspapers and radio stations to carry considerably fuller and more interesting stories on the Sherbrooke show and sale.



Howard Murray had Reserve Champion Angus and the Reserve Champion steer of the show.



Ronald Chapman with his Grand Champion heifer in the junior club class.

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Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

This year we did try the experiment of threshing the grain from the field with a small outfit which we could handle with very little extra help. It seemed as if we should be able to thresh it as fast as we could stack it the way we have for several years. We could have if the machines had all operated but they were all old and each one gave its quota of trouble. With two engines, a thresher and a corn-blower, it all added up to quite a headache. But the weatherman was good to us and we ended up with the grain in the bins in good shape and the straw should be the most useful we have ever had. It is all cut which makes it do a better job of absorbing moisture thus saving valuable fertilizer and at the same time making the manure easier to handle. One of the neighbours who has a blower thresher thinks enough of cut straw that he is considering getting a cutter big enough to take the straw from his blower and cut it up. So we may have done a better job than we realize.

For a time we considered the purchase of a combine but decided it was too much of an investment for the acreage we had. After it was too late we found that some of the neighbours might have joined us in the purchase,

thus lessening the overhead. We were not thinking so much of straight combining as it does not seem too satis-

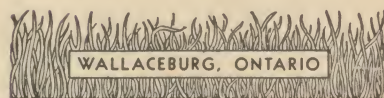
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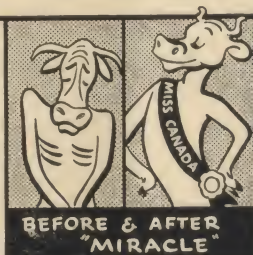


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factory under all conditions in our climate. But it did seem as if a combine with a pick-up could save a lot of labour by threshing from the swath after the grain was cured a bit. We see no reason why the swather we use on the mower for making grass silage could not also be used for swath-ing grain though it might need an extra bar or two to push the swath far enough so the horses would clear it. Our idea of handling the straw would be to put it through the cutter and blow it into the barn just as we did in threshing so we would still have had that part of the process to go through with just the same.

Bordeaux mixture and D.D.T. kept the potato tops green so long that we were in a quandary as to whether or not we should dig them while green, wait for heavy frosts to kill them or try the newer idea of using something to kill them before digging. Some of the old-timers were even more convinced that I must be a little teched to think of killing the tops after working all summer to keep them green. However, after they have served their purpose they become only a nuisance and may even harbour germs which cause the potatoes to rot in storage. However, a local expert tells us that the danger of this happening is slight in a dry time and this is certainly a dry time. So we are digging while it is dry as we expect (and even hope) that when it does start to rain there will be a lot of it. So far we find that the spray and a good coat of fertilizer have again brought us a good crop of potatoes. It is not as big as two years ago but it was on poor pasture land while the other crop was in good field.

Joe Galway came to Stanstead to organize us for another Farm Forum season. Every year we have hoped to increase the Ways Mills forum. About the only hope this year seems to be if Ivan and his wife should join us. Even the school at the village is French this year and the English who are not nearer some other forum remain un-interested in their own welfare.



How Competition for the **ESSO CHAMPIONSHIP** **Promotes Better Farming**

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And since good plowing is the basic factor in good tillage, the over-all effect is far reaching.



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THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

The School Fair — a Good Investment

by Joy Guild

Was there a school fair in your community this year? Did you attend, and take an active part in its planning and organization? If your answer is No, then you have missed out on something that is as educational as it is entertaining. You know that School Fair day is a holiday, time to buy soft drinks and hot dogs, time for sports and throwing baseballs at milk bottles, time to make your best cookies, and cakes. Do you realize too, that it is also the result of much planning and teaching, and it is the time when the pupils can put into practice, the theory they have been absorbing at school? The School Fair provides them with a chance to enter something made, or cared for, by their own hands. It gives them experience in teamwork, co-operation and leadership, as well as providing guidance in Agriculture and home-making.

A good school fair should also provide the opportunity to promote better understanding between teachers, parents and children, through the personal contact that is necessary for the initial planning. However, a school fair will never be successful without the co-operation of the whole community, which in turn is strengthened by that fair.

School fairs this year were very successful. There were

a great many entries in each class, over forty in some of the cooking classes. The children were very particular about their entries also, and some had taken great pains to see that they had followed the instructions carefully. Pupils who are guided by parents and teachers enter the fair not with a strictly competitive spirit, but with enthusiasm and zeal. A school fair, whose theme is "win at all costs" defeats its own purpose. Fair day should be a day for parents and teachers to view the exhibits, join with their neighbours and children in fun and sports, offer suggestions for improvements, and to finally go home, thinking how successful their school has become, and how far their community has progressed. If you find that you have all these advantages, then you may rightly say that your fair is a success. If not, then now is the time to correct that situation. Remember that a badly organized fair can do more harm than no fair at all.

As Women's Institute members, you have an excellent opportunity to do your community a favour, by sponsoring a school fair. If you have not, as yet, started such a project, contact your local Agronomist, and talk the idea over with him. He will give you helpful advice, and assist you in making plans for the next year. Work for, and with the Juniors. It will prove to be the best investment you will ever make.

Bulbs for Winter Blooming

by Bertha S. Lang

Bulbs, when properly forced, make splendid house plants and come into bloom during two of the winter months when one most needs the brightening effects of their rich colours. "Bulbs" is a general term, which includes narcissi, early tulips and the more recent Darwin tulips, noted for their elegance of form and range of rich colour.

After the bulbs have been potted, the next essential is to induce an abundance of root growth as quickly as possible. The proper root development will determine the subsequent size, vigor and lasting qualities of the flowers. Explicit advice in this connection is, first choose as the storage place for the pots the coolest, darkest and dampest part of the cellar—or the vegetable storage room is very suitable. Second, provide a condition which approximates as nearly as possible the condition they would have if planted in the ground outside. One thorough watering at the time of potting may be suffi-

cient, but in most cases it is not, therefore, water regularly as often as the top soil shows signs of dryness. Another method is to plunge the pots into damp sand and if the soil is not kept exceptionally wet, rooting will proceed satisfactorily. Toward the end of December the roots should begin to fill the pots. Third, after two months or ten weeks has elapsed bring the pots into a lighter place and water even more regularly and frequently. Allow them to make about three inches of growth, then bring the pots into the full light and warmth. Very rapid and healthy growth should soon result.

A few words of advice as to what not to do. First, do not, on any occasion, place the pots too near the furnace or near the hot air register. Dry, warm air is disastrous to healthy plant growth. It dries out the soil and hardens the roots, it stunts the foliage and shrivels up the blossoms. Second, do not overwater at any period, the soil should be kept always moist but never soggy and cold,

and do not allow the pots to stand in pans of water. Third, do not allow the plants to experience too violent temperature changes. At the time of rooting the temperature may range from 35 to 45 degrees and after the plants are brought into the light it should range from 50 to 70. Higher temperatures during the day, due to combined furnace heat and sun, may not hurt the plants but they are apt to be materially injured if they experience several hours of dry, high temperature during the evening when they should enjoy the resting period always provided for them under natural conditions.

Flowers with little or no stem, and plants with a stunted growth, are due to improper forcing methods. Bulbs appreciate the sunshine and when in the flowering stage also respond to, and should have, abundance of water.

So how about planting some, or all, of these bulbs this fall? Daffodils are also very suitable for forcing. Those who have enjoyed the deep perfume of freesias will want to include some of these also.

The Month With The W.I.

You will still hear echoes of the Short Course in the news this month, which is as it should be. Don't forget the members who had the privilege of spending those few days at the College have much of value to tell and show you, so make use of them. A few branches reported their box of towels to B.C., which must complete the roll, and practically all mention their overseas box. Christmas plans are on the way now. They will surely meet with a warm welcome. A young English war bride, just returned from a visit back home, remarked, "I was faintly hungry all the time, there just didn't seem to be quite enough to eat." And School Fairs: But we'll let the branches tell their own stories, and the first one comes from:—

Argenteuil: When a branch, barely two years old, can operate a school fair so successfully that visitors from other groups come to see how it is done it surely has reason to feel some satisfaction. Such was the case when officers from Morin Heights W.I. visited the fair sponsored by Arundel. Many helpful ideas were carried away to help them with one of their own next year. Miss Edna May of CBM also attended and gave a report of the event on her broadcast. This branch is buying a fire siren for their village. Frontier had a visit from Mrs. Baugh and Mrs. Fletcher. These ladies had attended the Short Course and passed on much helpful information. Lachute entertained the High School staff and wives of members of the School Board. Lakefield realized \$30 from a sale and a card party was arranged. Mille Illes also reports a successful sale. Over 80 members and friends enjoyed an evening of old-time dances. Morin Heights raised over \$657 at a Court Whist, the proceeds being used to purchase uniforms for the local Fire Brigade.

County Work

The Gaspe Institute Fair was run off on schedule again this year. This event, the only one of its kind in the province, is well supported by all the branches and is a credit to the energy and enthusiasm of the members in that county. Miss Joy Guild acted as judge for the handwork and cooking, while the county agronomist, Mr. Belanger, judged the flowers and vegetables. All entries were of a high quality.

All the branches of Pontiac county put on an exhibit of handwork at the Shawville fair and several had entries at Quyon. A tea room is run by the County W.I. at Shawville fair at which all the branches assist with food and labour. During the two afternoons, \$243 was taken in.

Richmond Institutes served meals during their local fair, each branch taking a turn. Another item of interest from this county is the fact that about 40 members journeyed by bus to Quebec to see the Handicraft Exhibition held there this past season.

Pioneer is resuming First Aid classes. The county president, Mrs. Leggett was present and gave an address on W.I. work. Mrs. Smillie, a former president, and Mrs. Baugh, also attended and spoke briefly, the former on her trip to England and Mrs. Baugh on the Short Course. Upper Lachute and East End catered to a wedding. Three new members were welcomed.

Brome: Austin had a "Grand Opening" of their new hall which has been named "Austin W.I. Community Centre". They have already had a regular meeting there and a successful Garden Party. Congratulations on so successfully completing such a splendid project. Sutton appointed representatives to their county meeting and gave favorite flowers as response to rollcall. South Bolton entertained the county meeting. Talent money was handed in, each member explaining how it was earned. Talks on the Short Course were given by the members attending, Mrs. Whittaker and Mrs. Cameron.

Chat.-Huntingdon: Aubrey-Riverfield sent a donation of fruit and vegetables to the Barrie Memorial Hospital. Mrs. A. McFarlane gave an address on "Fine Arts". Dundee discussed "What are the Farm Forums doing to benefit Agriculture?" A contest on flowers is also reported. Franklin Centre heard a story, "My First Prairie School", and he'd a contest on Practical Ideas. Hemmingford appointed a committee to assist at the local fair in Havelock. Mr. Williams gave a talk entitled "Home Furnishings for Happiness" which created so much interest he has been booked for another visit. And no fines were collected from this vital rollcall, "What I gain from the W.I."

Compton: Bury has again opened their Thrift Shop for the coming season. The teachers were invited to a

"Welcome" tea and dinner was provided for them and the judges at the school fair. Assistance was also given with prize money. A quilt was given a family who lost their home by fire and a gift and social evening tendered a member leaving town. Mrs. Pearson chairman of the W.I. broadcast committee, and Mrs. Mitchell, president Ascot W.I., attended this meeting. Brookbury remembered the fire victims with a box of household articles including both towels and quilt. Supplies were also given a needy family bereft of a father. Three new members were enrolled. Canterbury voted \$5 each to Scotstown and Bury School Fairs. Talks were given on Canadian Citizenship and Home and School Associations. East Clifton entertained the Red Cross group from High Forest when Dr. Lowry gave a talk on General Health. The annual school fair, as successful as usual, was held, the Institute donating prizes.

Gaspe: Mrs. R. Thomson, Q.W.I. president, and the secretary, Miss Joy Guild, have been visiting in this part of the province and all branches report entertaining them at their meetings. Mrs. Thomson spoke on the various provincial projects and Miss Guild gave a variety of demonstrations. L'anse aux Cousins heard a paper on "Our Remembered Children" and enjoyed a quiz, "Know your Advertisements". Sandy Beach had Haldimand branch as guests and here Miss Guild gave a demonstration on "Serving Potatoes". Wakeham reports "a contest entitled 'How well do you know your Bible' proved that a good many of us just didn't". The W.I. fair was discussed. York again won the trophy for the greatest number of prizes at this fair. Education was the subject of a discussion led by Rev. S. A. Meade.

Gatineau: Aylmer East catered to the annual ploughing match. \$25 has been donated the pupils in prizes, for those showing the greatest improvement. The annual "Grandmothers' Day" was observed. Breckenridge had a cooking sale and discussed the Blue Cross. Eardley held a special meeting for enrolments in the Blue Cross. Two "drive-in" picture shows have been held in the skating rink grounds to the advantage of general funds. A Grandmothers' Day is reported here also. Rupert is raising money by weekly dances in their hall. \$15 is being given in prizes to the school. Wakefield is resuming the serv-



Grandmother's Day with the Fordyce W.I., Mrs. George Hooper, president, and Mrs. Bromby, secretary.



Abbotsford W.I. group at the home of Mrs. A. H. Rowell. Mrs. Thomson, Q.W.I. president, is in the centre of the group.

ing of hot lunches to the school children. This branch is interested in the Gatineau Health Service which is in legal process at present. Wright has received an acknowledgment, accompanied by photograph, for the money sent to adopt an European child.

Jacques-Cartier: Ste. Anne reports an active season. Various social activities are noted and timely addresses given by authoritative speakers, such as: Home Gardening by Mr. R. Hayter; Home Nursing, Mrs. Darcel, V.O.N. and Child Delinquency by Chief Lepine.

Missisquoi: Cowansville, another school fair is reported here. A sale and tea in connection with this event was held to aid the treasury. A frozen food locker has been recently installed in town and a demonstration and film on its use were features of their meeting. Fordyce catered to the Calf Club luncheon and sent a layette to a mother in England. Dunham discussed School Law at their meeting. A birthday party was held for one of their members. St. Armand presented a member with a W.I. pin and heard an article, "Ideas of an English W.I. member who had visited Canada."

Megantic: Inverness, here Miss Jean Learmouth, a student at the short course gave a talk on some aspects of the work covered there. The president, Mrs. Graham, won the special prize at the Horticultural Fair for the best plant in bloom.

Montcalm: Rawdon sent two children to hospital for medical care. A sale of work and home cooking was a "great success."

Papineau: Lochaber has a large class enrolled in a St. John's Ambulance course. The publicity convenor gave a paper on the Club Women's Creed and a full response was given to the rollcall, "What other Institutes are doing". A shower was given a bride.

Pontiac: Beech Grove presented a gift to a bride and sponsored a successful food sale. Bristol Busy Bees, again a sale, this time of hand work. Two papers on different aspects of Education were given by the convenor and a box of canned fruit, etc., sent a family where the mother is ill. Clarendon had Mr. Tolhurst, principal Shawville High School, as guest speaker. He outlined

17 B. Jackson
1948
Ask Taylor who this is in 1948

F B



Members of the active group at Dixville.

the aim of the new Central School Board and led in the ensuing discussion. Prizes were presented pupils of the local school and an educational quizz concluded the programme. Elmside—another school fair, "very successful" says the report, with about 400 entries and a large attendance. Practical items were given by the convenors at the regular meeting. Fort Coulonge was invited to meet with Westmeath branch (Ontario) the former putting on the programme. A potato peeling contest, with prizes, furnished a bit of fun. Shawville entertained the staff of the High School and Mr. Tolhurst was asked to explain the Central School Board to this branch. A spelling match formed the relation here. Stark's Corners made 50 infant's gowns for the Community Hospital. Wyman also heard a talk on the Central School Board. Dr. S. E. McDowell, of the Protestant Board of Education, was the speaker and held a discussion period after his address. Miss A. Pritchard, a member of this



Getting ready to pack the "Parcel." Members of the Tomifobia W.I. bring in articles each month which are packed and shipped by the treasurer, Mrs. Bolduc, shown in the centre of the group.

branch, attended the tea in honour of W.I. members during exhibition week at Ottawa.

Richmond: Cleveland held a sale of remnants and quilts. A display of plants was a highlight of their meeting with prizes for the winners. Gore has been very active in "Sunshine" work and donations were received for this fund. A quilt was sold and a flower contest held. Richmond Hill is also making quilts for sale. A supper augmented general funds. Shipton had an exhibit of cakes and flowers with prizes for the best. Spooner Pond reports a merry contest on old fashioned hats. A visit was made to the plant of the Carnation Milk Co. in Sherbrooke. Other events sponsored were a brush demonstration and a party and gift for their president on her silver wedding. The Richmond Juniors report a new secretary, the former leaving for college.

Stanstead: Ayer's Cliff had as guest speaker, Mr. A. B. Farquhar, county supervisor, who spoke on "New Trends in Education". Another paper drive was undertaken and a party given for a member leaving town. Beebe also heard a talk by Mr. Farquhar on local problems connected with their school and many questions were asked the speaker. Dixville has adopted a family in one of the Baltic countries and has sent a large box of food and clothing. A special Christmas box is now being planned, which will include a gift for every member of that family. A food sale was used to raise funds. Fitch Bay presented a blanket to a member's very new son. North Hatley assisted, as usual, with the monthly Health Unit clinic and presented the community scholarship, towards which the W.I. pays \$25, to a local student. And here's something new — a *Greatgrandmothers' Day*. Six were present at the meeting, presented with bouquets, and taken to visit another who was ill. Tomifobia netted about \$48 from a brush demonstration sale of home cooking and tea. Miss C. I. McKenzie, county convenor of Education, was a guest at their meeting and discussed local school problems. Way's Mills held a lively discussion on "Would I like my Daughter to be a Teacher and Why".



Vaudreuil-Dorion W.I. picnic, held at the home of the president, Mrs. J. L. McKellar.



CO-OPERATION AND MARKETING

A page of interest to members of farmer's co-operatives

Quebec Co-ops Work Together

Quebec has a big lead over any other province in co-operative organization. Local by local, all real co-operatives anywhere work with the same framework; but in the integration of locals, and of diverse types of co-operatives, Quebec has its decided edge.

Instead of each co-operative working away by itself, apparently alone in an unfriendly world, Quebec locals mostly group together to form federations which work for the whole. Then each federation appoints a representative to the Superior Council of Co-operation, so that the Council can think and speak for all co-operatives in the province. It does educational work for co-operation, it deals with problems as they arise, and generally it helps to increase the effectiveness and improve the standards of the movement as a whole.

Once a year the Council organizes a general congress of co-operators, where representatives of all the groups can come together to discuss their mutual problems—and whatever apparent differences they may have, as well. This year the big task they undertook was a study of the Quebec acts respecting co-operatives.

There are four of these acts, one dealing with co-operative agricultural societies, one with co-operative syndicates, one with insurance co-operatives and one with rural electrification groups.

During the sessions spokesmen for the co-operatives criticized the acts from their points of view, then government spokesmen gave their interpretations and explanations of the points under attack. For example, the government interpretation of the law respecting agricultural co-operatives does not permit them to handle goods used in the home. Co-operative spokesmen attacked this interpretation, maintaining that goods used in the home were certainly "useful to the agricultural class" as defined in the act. But government spokesmen claimed that, since these goods were not useful only to the agricultural class, they should be handled by consumer co-operatives instead of by agricultural co-operatives. Otherwise, they said, non-farmers living in the territory served by these co-ops would be denied the full privileges of membership.

It was a delicate point, and there appeared to be good arguments on both sides. After thorough discussion the question arose whether the legislation concerning co-operatives could not be rewritten into one act—a general part covering co-ops generally, with specific sections for each different type. They believed that if this were properly done each co-operative would be better able to serve its full function without damaging anyone.



Part of the crowd of 400 at the General Congress of Co-operation.

In this way each of the co-operative acts was considered by the groups it most directly affects; and after a full day's consideration each group reported its findings, and made suggestions to be studied and, if considered advisable, acted on by the superior council. There was no doubt from their discussions that most of the members fully understood that the law should give their co-operatives a protective framework, as well as stating their duties and limitations.

There was no petty bickering, no strong inter-group disputes at the congress, although the 400 delegates represented more than a dozen different types of co-operatives. It might have been understandable if the representative of an employee group had railed against an employer organization, or a rural dweller had protested against urban privileges. But there was none of this.

The congress included farm groups such as the Union of Catholic Farmers, the Co-operative Federee de Quebec and the unaffiliated agricultural co-operatives. It represented the other occupational groups in the Artisans' Society, the Corporation of Agronomes, the United Fishermen, the Co-operative Lumbercamps, the Printers' Society and the United Coastal Freighters. There were also such assorted service groups as co-operative taxis, garages, rural electrification co-ops, credit unions, consumer stores, housing projects and handicraft groups. That gave plenty of room for differences to boil up.

The fact that they were able to work in such fine accord was explained by President Henri C. Bois in opening the session, when he said: "These groups getting together to study their problems is the best guarantee

that their interests cover not only the breadth of the province, but of the country and the world."

Certainly, if any group had restricted its outlook to its own immediate interests it would have been likely to start a squabble with others which seemed to represent opposing interests. So it is difficult to explain otherwise than through the breadth of interest described by Dr. Bois the almost unruffled harmony of the entire session.

Minor differences in points of view did occasionally arise. But when the situation was thoroughly explained everyone seemed satisfied that these differences dissolved before a long-term viewpoint—the viewpoint that each co-operative is not working merely to sell farm products to better advantage, or to buy goods needed in the home more cheaply, but to enrich the life of its members, and of society generally. They agreed with the statement that there needed to be co-operation, not only within each local, but among locals and among federations.

In short, each member strives to co-operate with everyone else in bodies represented on the Superior Council of Co-operation, which in turn tries to fit the whole co-operative set-up in Quebec into a harmonious society.

At the congress banquet five of Quebec's outstanding co-operative leaders were honored by the superior council with decorations of the Order of Co-operative Merit. The five were Father G. H. Levesque, Dean of Social Science at Laval University; Dr. Henri C. Bois, general manager of the Co-operative Federee de Quebec; Senator Cyrille Vaillancourt, manager of the Federation of Desjardins Credit Unions; Canon Philibert Grondin, chaplain of the Union of Catholic Farmers and of the credit union federation, and Victor Barbeau, professor at McGill, Montreal and Laval Universities.

In the election of superior council officers for the coming year Rene Pare became president and Dr. Bois vice-president, with Leo Filion continuing as secretary. The two additional executive members are Father Levesque and Raynald Ferron.

National Co-op Calendar

More than 60,000 national co-operative calendars—the first of their kind ever to appear in Canada—will be delivered to co-operative societies from coast to coast it is announced by the national office of the Co-operative Union of Canada. The new calendars, attractively illustrating co-operative activities in this country, are already started moving from factory to co-op managers.

Designed for the maximum of practical use, the calendars are also viewed by Co-operative Union officials as an educational medium of considerable value. Twelve pages of pictures give an interesting impression of the scope of Canada's co-operative movement. Short slogans on the calendar pad promote the idea of self-help and democratic responsibility. Co-operative principles and over-all statistics complete the educational material.

MARKET COMMENTS

Good growing and harvest weather in the late season has resulted in an upward revision of crop estimates generally. The potato crop of the Dominion is estimated as the largest since 1931. The major increase is in Quebec with over three million hundredweight over the crop of last year. The price of potatoes is significantly lower than last year. This is the only product included in the table in that category.

Eggs

The chief change in price compared with last month was in the price of eggs which moved up during the first week of the month. The advance was partly due to the late hatching season this year, resulting from dissatisfaction with the feed-price ratio at hatching time.

Beef

A comparison of beef prices of this year with last reveals a pronounced increase. A restaurant advertisement in a town located in a district where beef cattle are popular reads this way—

Buy a T-bone Steak
(18 months to pay)

Butter

The first cargo of Danish butter has arrived. It is reported to cost a fraction over 70 cents per pound, but will be sold at ceiling prices, the public making up the difference. The 15,000,000 pounds contracted for, should ensure a sufficient supply for the winter period.

Trend of Prices

	Oct. 1947	Sept. 1948	Oct. 1948
LIVESTOCK:			
Steers, good, per cwt.....	\$ 13.90	\$ 22.00	\$ 23.05
Cows, good, per cwt	10.50	17.35	16.05
Cows, common, per cwt. .	7.50	11.55	11.15
Canners and cutters, per cwt.	5.75	9.05	9.70
Veal, good and choice, per cwt.	16.00	26.00	26.00
Veal, common, per cwt.	14.20	18.30	19.65
Lambs, good, per cwt.	15.00	22.00	21.00
Lambs, common, per cwt. ..	9.90	16.10	14.30
Bacon hogs, dressed B1 per cwt.	22.90	33.35	32.35
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:			
Butter, per lb.	0.58	0.69	0.68½
Cheese, per lb.	0.26	0.31	0.33
Eggs, grade A large, per dozen	0.53	0.58	0.69
Chickens, live, 5 lbs. plus, per lb.	0.27	0.38	0.37
Chickens, dressed, milk-fed A, per lb.	0.34	0.47	0.47
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			
Apples, Quebec McIntosh, per bushel	3.00	—	2.75
Potatoes, Quebec No. 1, per 75 lb. bag	1.60-1.75	1.25-1.35	1.10-1.15
FEED:			
Barley, per ton	29.00	52.75-54.50	52.75-54.00
Barley Meal, per ton	—	57.90-62.90	58.25-61.80
Oat Chop, per ton	—	57.40-64.90	58.75-61.25
Oil Meal, per ton	—	70.00	70.00



LIVING AND LEARNING



Community School Season in Full Swing

Five Community Schools are in the midst of their 1948 programmes as we go to press. A wide variety of courses are offered.

Cowansville has public speaking, art appreciation, clay modelling, community organization, leather work, music appreciation, manual training and recreation. Some instructors are shared with Knowlton. C. F. Basham is the President.

Knowlton offers agriculture, French conversation, industrial arts, public speaking, cooking, sewing, clay modelling, agriculture and music appreciation. A feature of this school are the assembly sessions with speakers from outside the community. Filmore Sadler heads the Executive again this year.

Sawyerville. Through an arrangement with the Eastern Townships Committee on Adult Education four instructors from Sherbrooke and Lennoxville lead courses in public speaking, legal procedures, handicrafts and music. Mrs. Marjorie Hurley is president.

The **International School** at Stanstead features a series of speakers as well as courses on Education for Democ-

racy, Minding Your Own Business, Popular Health, French Conversation, Music for Everyone, Handicrafts and Recreation. C. R. Stetson is president.

Ormstown Study Club deals with many practical topics and draws heavily for speakers from Montreal and the Macdonald College staff. Included are addresses on The Pre-School Development of Children, Problems of Youth, School and Community, The Family Budget, Making Farm Machinery Profitable and Education by Radio. Instruction is given in Choral Singing, Sewing, Cooking, and Conducting the Public Meeting.

The Quebec Council of Community Programs met last month in Lennoxville and re-elected E. E. Dennison as president. Mrs. S. Seale of Sawyerville and A. B. Farquhar of Ayers Cliff are vice-presidents. Miss Elizabeth Watson of Cowansville is Treasurer and H. R. C. Avison is Secretary.

During October a radio programme directed to Community Schools on Monday evenings discussed "Painting and Crafts for Pleasure", "The Importance of Speaking French", "Conducting the Public Meeting", and "Group Discussion".

Back to the Land

There are fads in living as well as anything else. For a while, the North was the only place. There was a spate of books—"Wilderness Wife"; "We Took to the Woods"; "We Live in Alaska". City-bred wives performed miracles of endurance while their equally unprepared husbands battled with bears, wildcats and other assorted perils of the north.

Now the literary trend is in a gentler direction. City dwellers are no longer impelled to put quite such a distance between themselves and the horrors of crowded street cars, hall bedrooms plus hot plates, and out-of-sight rentals. They have discovered the country!

Today the distracted citizens in search of housing discover tumble down log-cabins which they reassemble in idyllic settings of burbling brooks, beehives, goat pens, and gardens; Or century old farm houses which can be converted to modern plumbing with hilarious episodes involving all the neighbourhood in amiable endeavour. The literary results are typified in books such as the "Owl Pen", by **Kenneth Wells** which is witty, Canadian, and with a subtle charm all its own.

But there are also some very sound books being written about the sometimes somber facts of country living and how to cope with them successfully. "The Owl Pen" is a good "come on" for a home in the

country. But the actual blue prints are given in books like "The Have More Plan" by Ed and Carolyn Robinson; and "Five Acres and Independence", by M. G. Kains.

The "Have More Plan" describes how a young man and his wife acquire a small holding on the edge of a large American city. It is particularly good for a person who wishes to combine farming with a job in business or industry. It is not for anyone who expects to make farming pay. It is for the family, tired of the high cost of city living, which wants to supplement its income by raising some of its own consumer products. The book is fully documented and clearly written.

"Five Acres and Independence" is for the man who wants to buy and manage a small farm which will be a paying proposition. The information is extremely practical, dealing with finance, water supply, sewage disposal, livestock, crops, planting of gardens and orchards, soil and its care.

"The Have-More Plan" by Ed and Carolyn Robinson (MacMillan Co. of Canada Ltd., 70 Bond St., Toronto, \$3.49) and "Five Acres and Independence", by M. G. Kains (Ambassador Books Ltd., 12 Richmond St. E., Toronto, \$2.50) may be borrowed or ordered through the Information Centre, Adult Education Service, Macdonald College.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

Prof. Avison Heads Adult Education



Professor H. R. C. Avison was recently appointed Director of the Adult Education Service at Macdonald College.

Professor Avison has had a varied experience in adult education in Western Canada as well as in Quebec. He organized Youth Training

Schools for the Department of Education in Manitoba. For three years he conducted an experiment in community education at The Pas, Manitoba, for the Canadian Association of Adult Education. For the past year he has acted as secretary of the Adult Education Service at Macdonald.

A member of the C.A.A.E. executive since 1940, Professor Avison has been active in promoting community schools, film circuits, radio forums and numerous other projects. Since the establishment in 1945 of the C.A.A.E. Joint Planning Commission, which plans adult education for all Canada, he has also been a member of that body.

Graduating from McGill in 1922 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts with honours in English and History, Professor Avison was assistant in the English department while continuing post-graduate work. He received his M.A. degree from McGill in 1940. Since 1940 he has been Assistant Professor of English at Macdonald College and Associate Editor of the Macdonald College Journal.

The Adult Education Service set up by the University in 1938, with the help of a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, has shown a steady growth over the ten years. The office was originally located in Sherbrooke for immediate service to the Eastern Townships. A programme featuring adult night schools in twelve communities, study groups, radio listening groups, film circuits, and leadership schools was developed in the early years under the direction of R. Alex Sim. In 1942, the

headquarters was moved to Macdonald College and closer co-operation with college and university departments, the Travelling Libraries and Women's Institutes resulted. The Farm Radio Forum has grown to a membership of 2,000 farm families and has become self-supporting. The bi-lingual summer school—Laquemac—operated in co-operation with Laval University has achieved a nationwide reputation. In 1947 an Information Centre and programme-counselling service for community organizations, with a full-time librarian, was opened. The most recent development has been the opening of Evening Courses in Art, Handicrafts, French Conversation, Music, Community Organization, Gardening, and Dressmaking at Macdonald College with over 250 adult students enrolled.

Mr. Lionel Cinq-Mars, a graduate student at Macdonald College, has been awarded a Walter M. Stewart Scholarship by the College authorities.

These scholarships, two in number, are offered each year by Mr. Walter M. Stewart of Montreal to assist highly qualified students whose undergraduate work has been taken at the two French-language agricultural colleges, at Oka and at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, to continue with graduate training at Macdonald College.

Mr. Cinq-Mars, who is the son of the late Dr. Lionel Cinq-Mars and Mrs. Cinq-Mars, of Montreal, obtained his B.A. degree from the Quebec Seminary in 1940, and graduated from the agricultural college of Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere (Laval University) in 1944 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with very great distinction. During his college course he won the I.O.D.E. Scholarship offered for the student who stands highest in the final examinations of the second year.

After graduation he worked for a time as botanist in the Plant Protection Service of the Quebec Department



of Agriculture, later being transferred to the post of inspector of fruits and vegetables at Rimouski, where he remained until early in 1946. He was then appointed Director of the Orchard Spraying Service for the Montreal District, and continued in this post until the spring of 1948, when he was engaged as plant pathologist for the Federal Department of Agriculture.

For the past two years, Mr. Cinq-Mars has been on study leave during the winter months, registered as a graduate student in the Department of Plant Pathology at Macdonald College, where he is working toward the Master of Science degree. His research is being done with the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*, the organism which causes apple scab.

In the fall of 1948 he was appointed Sessional Assistant in Plant Pathology by McGill University.

New Honour For Professor Crampton

Dr. E. W. Crampton, Professor of Animal Nutrition at Macdonald College, has just been named winner of the American Feed Manufacturers' Association award for outstanding contribution to research in animal nutrition.

Dr. Crampton was selected for this honour by the American Society of Animal Production and the award was presented at the closing session of the Society's annual meeting in Chicago on November 27th.

Dr. Crampton's productivity and leadership in the field of animal research has greatly influenced swine production both in Canada and in the United States. His most recent work has contributed significantly to the knowledge of vitamin D requirements of swine, the effects of vitamin B entities, protein levels, and proportions of animal protein needed as supplements in swine rations.

A member of the staff of Macdonald College since 1922, he has rendered signal service in the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, carrying on his extensive research work at the same time. He has served with distinction in the affairs of the American Society

of Animal Production, the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the Canadian National Swine Committee, the National Food Committee, the Provincial Feed Board and the Canadian Council of Nutrition. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, honorary member of the Canadian Feed Manufacturers' Association, Fellow in the Chemical Institute of Canada, and is a Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit of the Province of Quebec.

Professor W. A. Maw was elected to the position of vice-president of the World's Poultry Science Association at the World's Poultry Congress held in Copenhagen, Denmark, during August of this year. Other Canadian members elected to the executive council were W. A. Brown, Associate Director of Marketing, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; Professor Ross Cavers, Head of the Department of Poultry Husbandry, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and G. L. Landon, Poultry Commissioner for British Columbia, Vancouver.



Those of our readers who knew Dr. Harrison, the first Professor of Bacteriology, and Principal of Macdonald College between 1911 and 1926, will be glad to know that he is still active and busy.

In a letter which we received from him a few weeks ago, he admits to being a victim of arthritis, "but with the help of two sticks I seem to keep myself occupied and I still enjoy life."

His present address is Byways, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset, England.

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